stations at major metropolitan cities, establishment of super speciality hospitals; setting up of manufacturing units for rolling stock, infrastructure projects for port connectivity through Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) and several activities in catering/tourism and hospitality area have been identified for possible execution through public-private partnership route.

Outsourcing of rail ticket through post

1140. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal has been formulated to outsource the railway ticketing system in the semi-rural and far-flung areas to India Post; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the steps taken to create the required infrastruture and also for training the assigned personnel who would operate the reservation system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) A proposal for selling of Tickets through Post Offices is under finalization in consultation with the Department of Post. Provision of infrastructure and training of personnel is part of the proposal.

Difficulties faced by passengers due to unauthorised entry of milkmen in trains

†1141. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that common passengers have to face a lot of difficulties due to unauthorized entry of milkmen bringing milk from adjoining areas to Delhi;

(b) if sc, the steps Government are going to take to deal with this problem;

(c) whether any proposal to run a separate train for these milkmen is under consideration of Government;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the details of facilities provided by Government for the safety of life and property of common passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) some cases come to notice. Milkmen are authorized to travel only in nominated trains which are endorsed on their monthly/quarterly season tickets regular checks are conducted to apprehend milkmen travelling unauthorisely and charged as per rules.

(c) There is no such proposal at present.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Railway Protection Force as well as Government Railway Police are deputed to keep watch on milkmen and to ensure the security and property of passengers.

Rail Network in Sikkim

1142. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:
SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a rail link between Lhasa and Beijing is operational and China has announced the extension of the Lhasa line up to Xigaze and from there to Yatung, a traditional trading centre;

(b) whether it is a fact that Sikkim which shares its border with China is very worried with the proposed rail network as the State does not have even a mile of railway track; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to create a rail network and to improve the existing highway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The Railway line from Lhasa in Tibet autonomous region to Golmud in Qinghai province of China was formally opened on 01.07.2006 which provides rail connectivity from Beijing to Lhasa. Goverment has seen reports in Chinese media which indicate that there are plans to extend the Railway line to the border between China and Nepal.